



# **MEMA REPORTS**

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MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **SNOWSTORM AID BEGINS TO FLOW**

Recovery activities continue regarding the Federal declaration resulting from the January 12<sup>th</sup> Snowstorm. To date, FEMA has obligated a total of \$2.3M to communities, private non-profits and state agencies for their response in Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Essex, and Suffolk Counties. These Federal funds represent 75% of eligible expenses incurred for snow and ice removal, equipment, contracts and personnel overtime, related to emergency protective measures during the storm. There have been 423 applicants for reimbursement, with total projected estimates of up to \$32.8M in reimbursements once the process is completed.

## **NOAA 2011 HURRICANE SEASON FORECAST**

Forecasters at the National Weather Service are calling for a 65% chance of above-average hurricane activity in the Atlantic for the 2011 season. They are now calling for 12-18 named storms, including 6-10 hurricanes, 3-7 of which should be major (Category 3, 4 or 5). The 50-year average is 9.6 named storms, 5.9 hurricanes and 3-6 major hurricanes. Additional details about the forecast can be found at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>.

## **HURRICANE SEASON APPROACHES**

Although the Hurricane Season in New England is defined as June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 75% of the 40 tropical systems that have impacted our region in the past century have struck during the months of August and September. To help increase public awareness of the effects hurricanes can have on the Commonwealth and the Preparedness steps we all must take, over the fourteen weeks of June, July and August, MEMA is again disseminating important information to ensure the continued safety of our citizens and property through weekly News Releases and postings on the MEMA website at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema) highlighting key issues relative to the New England Hurricane Season. Key Hurricane Topics include Massachusetts' Hurricane History, Preparedness Tips for Families, Home Owners, Populations Requiring Additional Assistance, Pet Owners, Boaters, Businesses, Inland Residents, as well as information about Sheltering-In-Place and Evacuation.

## **HURRICANE HUNTER VISITS MA**

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Hurricane Awareness Tour* made a stop at the MA Military Reservation in Bourne. William Read, Director of the NOAA Hurricane Center in Miami, Jamie Rhome, the Center's Storm Surge Specialist and the staff of the NWS Office in Taunton briefed state and local Emergency Management officials about their thoughts on the upcoming Hurricane Season. Many emergency assistance agencies and organizations, including MEMA displayed their latest technologies, such as MEMA's Field Support Unit vehicles, which are mobile communication centers, and interacted with the crowds. The main attraction however was

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Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety & Security  
Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director

NOAA's Hurricane Hunter Airplane and crew who conducted tours of the aircraft for thousands of school children, as well as the general public throughout the day.

### **MAY MEMT TALKS HURRICANES**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the MA Emergency Management Team (MEMT) presented the annual Hurricane Forecast and Preparedness meeting at MEMA HQ. NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Glenn Filed discussed the NWS Hurricane Forecast for the Region, emphasizing the fact that the overall number of storms is less a factor for New England, in that it only takes one (see Bob in 1991, the season's second named storm). He also presented a number of new innovative Hurricane Season weather products. Paul Morey, FEMA Region I and Matthew Walsh, Geospatial Data & Systems POC for the US Army Corps of Engineers updated the MEMT on the progress of the New England Multi-State Hurricane Evacuation Study and MA Hurricane Inundation Mapping. Peter Rennert, FEMA Region I Response Operations Branch Chief discussed the Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) as well as FEMA's perspective on Hurricane Disaster Preparedness for the upcoming season.

### **SUCCESSFUL FEDERALLY GRADED VY EXERCISE**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, state and local Emergency Management officials from MA, NH and VT joined Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station personnel for the biennial federally graded exercise of the VY Emergency Response Plans. Participants included federal, state and local partners from MEMA, FEMA, Public Health, Mental Health, State Police, Department of Transportation, National Guard, American Red Cross, Mass211, and Office of the Secretary of State. FEMA's preliminary findings were that the Commonwealth did an excellent job in every phase of the exercise. The tireless work of the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick was recognized.

### **EMAC HELP IN ALABAMA**

MEMA Public Information Officer Peter Judge was deployed for two weeks to Birmingham, Alabama to support his Alabama EMA PIO counterpart during that state's slow recovery from the April 27 Tornado Disaster. This request for assistance came through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC facilitates member states sending personnel and equipment to help disaster relief efforts in other states, augmenting the assistance already provided by the affected state and the federal government. Under EMAC, the emergency forces of any state offering assistance to another state are afforded the same rights, duties and privileges as the emergency personnel of the requesting state (except for the power of arrest). EMAC also provides for clear, predictable and standardized operating procedures for member states. Officers of the state offering assistance are considered agents of the state requesting assistance for purposes of tort liability and immunity. Thus, states offering assistance and their employees and officers cannot be held liable with respect to good faith acts or omissions committed while providing assistance within another member state. The requesting state is also responsible for reimbursing the assisting state for any expenses. For more on EMAC, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **TORNADOES ARE NO STRANGER TO MA**

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms, with whirling winds that can reach 300 mph. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Although a relatively rare occurrence in the Commonwealth, tornadoes are no strangers to Massachusetts, where we may experience a few small tornadoes annually. Ironically, until the recent devastating tornado struck Joplin, MO, the Worcester Tornado, which swept through Central Massachusetts in June of 1953, was the nation's deadliest single tornado in almost 60 years. It was 'on the ground' for 1 hour and 24 minutes, traversing 46 miles and measured almost one mile wide at times. Ninety-four people were killed and over 1,200 were seriously injured. The total cost of damage

was estimated at \$53,000,000, as 640 homes were destroyed, with an additional 3,700 damaged. More information regarding Tornado Safety is available at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **IEMG SPRING CONFERENCE IN CANADA**

The Spring Conference of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG), composed of the lead Emergency Management personnel of the New England states and the Eastern Canadian provinces was held in Quebec City on May 9-13. IEMG is similar in concept to our domestic EMAC program. MEMA representatives were Director Kurt Schwartz and Operations Manager Allen Phillips. The highlights of the conference were the MEMA-led Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) A-Team or EMAC Advance Team Training and subsequent MEMA-developed tabletop exercise; *Hurricane Response & Recovery*, presented by Paul Peddle, Newfoundland Regional Emergency Management & Planning Officer; and the *2010 Forest Fires* was presented by the Ministere de la Securite Publique du Quebec. For more information about IEMG, go to <http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org/index-e.asp>.

### **MAY TRAINING REPORT**

This past month, an additional 126 individuals received training through MEMA in the following subject areas *ICS-300*, *Basic Public Information Officer* and *Small Animal Handling & First Aid*. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **UPCOMING ARRL FIELD DAY**

On June 25-26, the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association of amateur radio, will conduct a national Field Day. The Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate. ARRL Field Day is an opportunity where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight their many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For more details, go to <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

### **COMPREHENSIVE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS BEING SIGNED**

Almost 100 communities across the Commonwealth have officially signed on to the Comprehensive Mutual Aid Agreement, which paves the way to allow communities to send and receive municipal assets anywhere in MA. Many additional communities are in the final steps of joining the agreement, as they await final signatures. As the list expands, it will be made available on the MEMA website at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). Please contact your MEMA Regional Office with any questions

### **OPERATION READY-2011**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, MEMA participated in Phase II of *Operation Ready*, the MA Port Authority Fire-Rescue Department's water rescue exercise developed to provide an opportunity to evaluate the Water Rescue Annex to the Airport Emergency Plan. Phase I focused on local emergency responder command & control coordination, critical decisions, notifications, and integration of State and Federal assets necessary to save lives and protect public health and safety during the first two hours of response to a water-based aviation disaster. It was one of the largest water rescue exercises in the world to date. The Phase II scenario began with the hours beyond the initial search and rescue including the utilization of the new MA State Police Emergency Operations Center and Unified Command Center, a Media component and a Family Assistance Center component. Additional areas that were addressed included accident investigation, evidence collection, fatality management and patient tracking.

### **NLE 2011 SIMULATES CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE**

MEMA participated in FEMA's *National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE)*, which simulated a catastrophic 7.7 earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the central US. Thousands of first responders and emergency management representatives, at all levels of government, activated their emergency operations centers and responded to the earthquake as if it were real. MEMA Operations Manager Allen Phillips was stationed in Washington DC to direct Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) assets from non-impacted states to help. More than a year of preparation went into what is being hailed as the largest disaster exercise in the nation's history. The exercise includes eight states - Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee that encompass four FEMA regions. The *NLE* is the first to test the nation's response to a natural disaster. Previous *NLEs* focused on simulated terrorist attacks.

### **DMH OFFERS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

DMH, in collaboration with DPH, are offering four training & train-the-trainer formats. You provide the space & audience and the training will be brought to you in May & June by contacting Lisa C. Kaufman, ATR-BC, LADC1, Behavioral Health & Emergency Planning Consultant at 781-405-2311 or [lc\\_kaufman@yahoo.com](mailto:lc_kaufman@yahoo.com). 1. *Taking Care of Stress, Before It Takes Care of You*; 2. *Playing on the Team: Peer-to-Peer Support*; 3. *PFA 101: Massachusetts Psychological First Aid*; 4. *PFA 202: Developing Your Psychological First Aid Skills*.

**CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MEMA UPDATES ON *FACEBOOK* & *TWITTER*, AS WELL AS ON THE MEMA WEBSITE @ [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).**

